

Re Point V

Substantiated Determination Regarding Novelty, Inventive Activity, and Industrial Applicability; Documents and Explanations in Support of this Determination

1 Reference is made to the following document:

D1: DE3634977 A

2 Document D1 is considered the most proximate related art to the subject matter of Claim 1. It discloses (the parenthetical references relate to this document): a motor vehicle steering column having a bracket fixed to the vehicle and a steering column tube that is able to have its inclination adjusted relative to the bracket that is fixed to the vehicle, the adjusting device including a lever that is supported on the bracket in a pivoting manner and which may be deflected about a swivel axis by a driving device and at whose driven end a deflecting bracket is hinged that is connected to the steering column tube in a pivoting manner.

The subject matter of Claim 1 therefore differs from D1 in that the lever may be deflected about its pivot axis by a back and forth motion at one drive end, a compensation being provided between the motion of the drive end and the driving device.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 is novel
(Article 33 (2) PCT).

3 Thus, the object to be attained by the present invention can be seen in that a greater inclination setting of the motor vehicle's steering column is permitted.

The solution to this problem proposed in Claim 1 of the present patent application is based on an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: according to column 9, lines 5–55, one skilled in the art would increase the length of the lever to attain the object. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not call upon the back and forth motion of the lever.

Revised Claim 1:

A motor vehicle steering column having a bracket (26) fixed to the vehicle and a steering column tube (2) which can be adjusted in inclination relative to the bracket (26), that is fixed to the vehicle, via an adjusting device, the adjusting device (14, 14') comprising a lever (15, 15'), which is mounted pivotably on the bracket, and can be deflected about a pivot axis (22, 22') by a driving device, and at whose one output end (18, 18') a deflecting clamp (16, 16') is coupled pivotably to the steering column tube (2), wherein the lever (15, 15') is deflectable by a back and forth motion at a drive end (17) about its pivot axis (22), a compensation being provided between the motion of the drive end (17) and the driving device (8, 9).